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For Immediate Release:
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Billie C. Scruse, Press Secretary

CITY OF HARTFORD RECEIVES \$330,000 FEDERAL GRANT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT'S HOMELAND SECURITY EQUIPMENT

HARTFORD, CT – The City of Hartford has been awarded a \$330,000 federal homeland security grant. The funding was awarded under the Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety portion of the Assistance to Firefighters grant program, a section of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Act).

With this funding the City of Hartford has purchased and upgraded communications equipment and software to improve resources of personnel at the scene of an emergency.

Mayor Perez will hold a press conference at Hartford City Hall to thank Congressman Larsen for helping Hartford obtain this grant and a demonstration of the equipment will be unveiled on:

Thursday, October 28, 2004

9:00 a.m.

City Hall Function Room – 2nd Floor

“Early this year Congressman Larson announced the good news that we would receive this worthwhile grant. On behalf of the City of Hartford I would like to thank him for his dedication in making sure our city has the proper equipment necessary to keep the citizens safe in the face of danger,” said Mayor Eddie A. Perez.

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Congressman John Larson wrote a letter to the U.S. Fire Administrator in the Assistance to Firefighters Grants office asking that Hartford be awarded their first phase of emergency funding.

"I am thrilled that the City of Hartford has been awarded this valuable grant," said Larson. "This funding will help the fire department continue to do a tremendous job protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Hartford. This grant helps to ensure that our front line emergency responders have the communications capabilities and equipment they need."

The City of Hartford Fire Department is one of 42 fire departments nationwide with a Class 1 rating. In addition, the grant for Hartford was one of 121 Assistance to Firefighters grants announced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in this round of announcements. Since June 2003, over 8,000 fire departments have received over \$632 million to support their role as first responders in the communities they serve.

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